REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 recites a dynamic shaft seal component comprising a disc made from a mixture of PTFE resin powder and a susceptor material which are cross linked to form the disc.

Paragraph 17 of the cited reference discloses a seal disc made of PTFE compound in which various fillers may be added, including glass fibers, molybdenum disulfide, graphite and bronze. There is no teaching that the fillers are cross linked to the PTFE compound as called for by claim 1.

While the examiner has given no patentable weight to using microwave energy to form the discs, the result is that the susceptor and PTFE material is cross linked. Since there is no teaching in the cited Mellet reference of any cross linking between the filler materials and PTFE material, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 is improper and should be withdrawn.

The remaining claims depend, ultimately, on claim 1 and are believed allowable for the same reasons.

It is believed that this application now is in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 08-2789.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

November 23, 2004
Date

Robert L. Stearns, Registration No. 36,937
The Pinehurst Office Center, Suite #101
39400 Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-5151
(248) 723-0427

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **Amendment** for U.S. Serial No.: 10/668,935 filed September 23, 2003 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on November 23, 2004.

Karri M. Chamberlin

Karri M. Chamberlin